

Rev. A A Phelps
Boston

and it will place him in such circumstances that he will not feel at liberty to back out. I am convinced that he is the strongest and best abolitionist, that has the proper qualifications, of any man that we shall get into our ranks for some time to come;—even if they were to come in hereafter, I should suspect that they cared more for office, than for the slave. I have not room to give you a reference to my arguments to induce him to accept, & therefore will not try to attempt it.

Yours, very respectfully

Rev. A. A. Phelps.

H. Cummings

P.S. Br Phelps, you must go to the Barnstable Co. meeting at all events, for I am sick & shall not be able to attend. I want to have them raise a committee on finance & report to raise 400 dollars this year & apportion it among the Societies in the Co. Also recommend holding meetings in every School district in each town.

Yours &c.

H. C.

personal esteem and regard. He also
was fully satisfied that we should
get our governor in two years from
this coming election & assured me
that he designed ^{hereafter} to go heart & soul
might & influence in favor of the
third party "as a common soldier". - and
that he would contribute to the
columns of your paper. I met every
argument he presented against the nomi-
nation, which he acknowledged to
be forcible; but still, I could not
succeed. I, however, kept the subject
open for an interview of the commit-
tee with him, which I would re-
commend as soon as convenient. It
is my opinion that his diffidence
is the greatest obstacle in his way,
and ~~it is my opinion~~, that, if you
represent, in the strongest light, your
despair of finding a proper man,
& convince him that his accepting
the nomination will promote the
cause, you may succeed. I think
another year he would accept it, &
that if he absolutely declines, we
had better recommend to the aboli-
tionists of the state to vote for
him, and that in conclusion of
your interview with him, that you
inform him of such a determination,

Rev. Hiram Cummings

Boston Sept. 10th 1840

Mr. Phelps, — I have had an interview with Mr. Johnson of some length, & presented all my arguments, the soundness and force of which he acknowledged, but did not succeed in getting from him a promise to accept the nomination for Governor. He would be willing to sacrifice every thing of a party nature for the good of the A. S. cause, he informed me, if he believed that the nomination of himself would subserve the cause of the Slave; but he honestly did not believe ~~that~~ it would. His reasons for that were, he was a stranger in the state and not known as one of the permanent citizens, & he thought the nomination should have reference to that, & that your policy this year would be to get some upright good former, & then appeal to the former interests of the community to sustain your position, & by so doing you would get more votes than for him. He wished me to communicate these reasons to you, & Mr. Torrey, and to assure you, that you had his highest